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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4560
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 000458

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2019

TAGS: NATO PREL MOPS MARR AF SW

SUBJECT: SWEDEN INFORMED ABOUT MANAS; REPLIES THAT VIOLENCE
ON RISE IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 71036

(C) On July 23, Poloffs raised reftel points with Carl Magnus Eriksson, MFA Director for Peace Support Operations, and Brigadier General Gunnar Karlson, MFA Military Advisor. Earlier in the day, Pol Counselor also raised the points with Peter Gothe, MOD Director for International Security Policy. In both meetings, the Swedes noted that the increase in ground convoys from Russia -- and through their PRT in northern Afghanistan -- had likely been a factor in increased attacks in the region. Gothe stated that "there are shootings every week now." While in 2006 violence was mostly carried out by criminal gangs, now Sweden sees involvement of both criminals and Taliban fighters. Gothe specified that the violence is not only connected to increased transports as the up-tick in attacks began early last year. Eriksson stated that Sweden assesses insurgents are targeting international forces as well as Afghan government entities. He promised to try to provide statistics on the increased attacks to Post.

SILVERMAN